

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, January 24, 2005 at 4:30pm in the Board of Works Room at City Hall.

Present at said meeting were Paula Woods, Mike Dana, Leon Trachtman, Garnet Peck, Nancy Offutt and Attorney John Sorensen. Mayor Jan Mills and Clerk-Treasurer Judy Rhodes attended. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Chris Foley, Brenda Lorenz, Brian Tunis, Lee Booth, and Cheryl Kolb represented the Department. Council members Gil Satterly and Ann Hunt were present. Absent was Council member Gerry Keen.

Paula convened the Board at 4:30 pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the December 20 meeting. Mike motioned the minutes be approved as presented. Leon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.
- Noted miscellaneous enclosures that were included in the packet.

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

- Reported she attended the IPRA Conference in Indianapolis last week, noting she attended a very interesting session on electronic bidding.

Parks – Lee reported on the following:

- Noted the trail and playground inspections were available.
- Prepare equipment for spring.
- Organize and clean-up around the maintenance barn and shop.
- Flood clean up.
- Snow removal.
- Help Brenda with various jobs around Morton.

Recreation – Chris reported on the following:

- The Fourth grade basketball program has begun with 53 children participating. The program will continue through February. Terry Ness is the coordinator of the program.
- January 4th was the first day to rent shelters. Forty reservations have been made for this coming season.
- Registrations for classes offered this winter/spring season began the first week of January.
- Skating lessons began Saturday, January 22. Seventy-two children are learning to ice skate. The classes are offered for children ages 5-13.
- Riverside Skating Center will be hosting the second annual Dare to Bear Polar Bear Skate on Friday, February 4. The event begins at 7:00pm. You must be in a swimming suit and skate one lap to be a true Dare to Bear member. The Skating Center is expecting a sellout crowd, so purchase your ticket early.

Morton Center – Brenda reported on the following:

- There have been 1,178 registrations for our winter session compared to 1,245 registrations last year at this time, a decrease of 5%.
- There will be free tax assistance again this year at Morton for those people with basic tax returns, particularly those with low and limited income, individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking non-Purdue students, and elderly taxpayers on Wednesdays,

Feb. 2-9 from 1:00-4:45pm. Appointments are required. More dates may be added if there is sufficient demand.

Beautification & Stewardship – Brian reported on the following:

- Reminders about the Wednesdays in the Wild programs and tonight's Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society program.
- Snow removal/ice melt.
- Clean up from ice storm damage – City Hall, Morton, Lee's house, Tommy Johnston Park, Happy Hollow Pedestrian entrance, Happy Hollow Shop area, and Lommel Park.
- Helped with continuing clean up at the Cumberland Maintenance Barn.
- Continuing to work on tree/shrub work along Cumberland median.

Old Business

Farmers Market

Larry Oates offered an update on the progress of the Farmer's Market. He noted they were having a callout this evening for vendors at 7:00pm at Westminster Village. They are planning to use the Cumberland South shelter for entertainment each night, so with the help of Tippecanoe Arts Federation contacting all of their members, they are hopeful for some folks to help provide the entertainment. The callout for entertainers is scheduled for 8:00pm this evening at Westminster Village. The market will begin Wednesday, May 4 and run through Wednesday, October 26. Vendors will arrive around 2:30pm and will need to be out by 7:00pm. The market itself will run from 3:00pm-6:30pm each evening. Entertainment will run from around 5:00pm-6:30pm.

Soccer Requests

Jim Bollock, Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance, introduced himself and thanked the Park Board for the allowance and use of the fields in the past. He reported their current registration for the spring session stands at approximately 1,800 children. They are anticipating another 200-300 late registrants. Joe noted we have had a good working relationship with the organization. Mr. Bollock also reported that GLRSA is currently working on replacing and anchoring new goals for the fields. B.J. Pheasant, North West Soccer Club, noted he did not have any additional information since last month's meeting. Mr. Pheasant reported their registration was postponed due to the previous weekend's weather. Joe suggested that GLRSA use the north ½ of the Cumberland Park open space north of the softball fields, as well as Lommel Park, and that NWSC use the south ½, as well as the small area south of the woods. The Park Board questioned the representatives of each group, asking if a working relationship between the organizations would be feasible. Both individuals agreed the working relationship would be feasible. Mike motioned that both organizations work with the staff to section off the areas for use by both organizations. Leon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Crisis Center Event

Tena Woenker presented a brief overview of the group's two-hour fundraising event scheduled for February 26, 2005, a Penguin Fling/Ice Skating Event. The group is interested in use of Tapawingo Park for the penguin fling and renting the Riverside Skating Center, noting they are aware of the charge for skate rental. The Board thanked the group for their presentation. The consensus of the Park Board was to allow the organization use of Tapawingo Park. The Crisis Center agreed to follow up on the safety concerns pertaining to the actual penguin flinging, making sure the area is clear to prevent injury during the fling.

N.R.O. Fund Discussion

Clerk-Treasurer Judy Rhodes presented an overview of the City Funds to the Park Board, noting the primary focus would be on the N.R.O. Fund. She distributed miscellaneous reports representing the N.R.O. budget, discussing the various reports as she went along. Park Board will review the data for questions at a later date.

New Business

Dancing in the Streets & Pizza Fest Requests

Doug Anderson is proposing use of Tapawingo Park and Riverside Skating Center to help house the Dancing in the Streets event again this year, with virtually everything the same as last year. The event will be held July 30. The only change thus far would be soft closing the park a little earlier this year, for more time to prepare for the event, with hard closing to take place around 3:00pm. They will have to close Tapawingo Dr. earlier this year to have a little more time to set that area up. They will also provide all of the similar security and all of the maintenance cleaning concerns just as they did last year. Parking concerns were also discussed pertaining to the event. Joe reminded the Board that Doug also works with various other departments coordinating and addressing issues pertaining to the event. Joe pointed out the one difference from last year is that we did not have a Rink rental fee last year. In staying with our newest policy of rental fees, we would have to implement our current policy for the Riverside Skating Center, charging for use of the facility to help alleviate our costs associated with the event. The consensus of the Park Board was to allow the organization use of Tapawingo Park for the event, noting there would be a fee associated with use of the Riverside Skating Center.

The Downtown Business Center and Lafayette Adult Resource Academy are requesting permission to conduct Pizza Fest on Friday, September 30, an event scheduled exclusively in downtown West Lafayette. They are looking at the same footprint for Dancing in the Streets. It will be a similar type of event in terms of usage. Obviously, it will not include classic (up to 12 vendors) selling various forms of pizza. The purpose of this event is to provide awareness of the ongoing process for adult academic and life skills learning that is the primary mission of the Lafayette Adult Resource Academy. Any profit from the event will go towards that process. The event is the Friday evening before the Purdue-Notre Dame football game. Since it is a first-time event, the organizers are hopeful the event will draw approximately 4,000 people. The consensus of the Park Board was to allow the organization use of Tapawingo Park for the event, noting there would be a fee associated with use of the Riverside Skating Center.

Student Humanitarian Organization

Brenda introduced Adrienne Shelby, a senior from West Lafayette High School, interested in renting space at Morton Community Center for a benefit concert. The concert is to benefit the release of a political prisoner, Leonard Peltier, a prisoner currently being held in Kansas. They are requesting to sell some items at their benefit concert to help raise money for their cause. In order for the Park Board to maintain some control, the merchandise the group is requesting to sell will need monitoring. The rental itself, be it political or not, is not being questioned by the Board. Mike motioned to allow the group to sell, with staff approval, merchandise to support their fundraising efforts. Leon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

West Lafayette School Board

Nancy reported two small capital projects are moving forward, one is the band room for \$800,000.00. They have received a proposal, which has not been approved by the Board, but targets construction to begin in April and conclude in October. The Board will review that officially at their next meeting. Mr. Floyd and Mr. Barnes are continuing to work with some of the more serious issues of Happy Hollow, the roof being at the top of that list. The Board has not received Mr. Floyd and Mr. Barnes' recommendations; but they are working on specific details pertaining to that building, items targeted at approximately \$2,000,000.00. The biggest issue continues to be the very serious financial condition. An updated financial report was distributed to the Park Board.

Wabash River Parkway Commission

Paula reported the Parkway Commission would meet again in February. Mike began representation on the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation committee during his Park Board presidency. He would like to continue representation on that committee. Paula recommends that he continue as the official representative, noting that he can offer much to the committee. Paula has agreed to representation in his absence. Paula also suggested a line item to be included with our regular agenda for monthly reporting by the representative.

Mike reported the Corporation is moving towards hiring an executive secretary or executive director. There has been a grant of \$500,000.00 from North Central Health Services to fund the undertaking, so now it is a matter identifying a person and the organization moving forward.

Other

Purchase Orders

Pay Claims

Garnet motioned that claims be paid. Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Presiding Officer

Secretary